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or 170,820*l.* per annum. The ashes from the 65,790 houses in the districts included, would realise about 100,000*l.* a-year, reducing the net cost therefore to 70,820*l.* a-year, or rather under 22*s.* per house.

If manual labour only were employed for cleansing the same extent of surface, it would require 3120 men to do the work daily, which at 2*s.* each per day, or 14*s.* per week, would make 113,880*l.*, or net 3880*l.* which is exclusive of transporting the soil to the laystalls or depôts.

The foot-pavement in the same districts extends over about 1,041,150 superficial yards, which at 1*s.* 3*d.* per thousand yards cleansed, would cost annually 23,743*l.*; and taking the whole of the carriage and footways, the cost per house would not, on an average, exceed 1*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

The most effectual and economical way, however, of effecting the object would be by machine-work and manual labour jointly; for it is found that when a street is once thoroughly cleansed by a machine, and afterwards kept continually swept by manual labour, the aid of such machine is only required occasionally, as after drizzling rain, or snow, &c.

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March 6, 1844.

BENJAMIN ROTCH, ESQ. V.P. IN THE CHAIR.

THE results of an experiment made in parts of Regent Street and Oxford Street, conducted by a committee of the inhabitants, and assisted by the Practical and scientific Association for the promotion of improved street-paving, cleansing, &c. was laid before the society.

The experiment was commenced on the 2d of January in the present year, for the purpose of ascertaining the cost of cleansing parts of Regent Street and Oxford Street, which was continued until the 20th of the same month inclusive, being nineteen days ; 35 men and 3·89 boys were, on an average, daily employed, at the rate of twelve hours a-day.

The average area of surface swept daily by Whitworth's machines amounted to 1841 superficial yards, and the quantity of soil, slop, &c. removed by the machines averaged rather more than three loads per day, or at the rate of one load for 613 superficial yards swept by the machine. The average cost per day was at the rate of 8*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.*

The total area kept continually clean during the nineteen days experiment, amounted to 27,000 superficial yards, and taking the boys at two to a man, the average area kept clean continually by each man, with the occasional aid of the machines at night, was equal to 730 superficial yards.

The expense for effecting this desirable object was found to be at the rate of 1*s.* 2*d.* per house per week ; but it is evident that if a complete system of cleansing the metropolitan streets daily were carried into effect, the cost would be materially reduced, as a large proportion of the mud collected during the experiment, was transferred from the adjacent macadamised roads.

On the 9th of January, the eighth day of the experiment, it was found that only half a load was collected by the machine throughout the district ; shewing that if a regular system were perfectly carried out, the cost for machine-work would be very trifling indeed.

On the 12th of January an experiment of cleansing

the wood pavement by means of washing was tried ; the water was supplied by means of a stand-pipe and hose, connected with the West Middlesex water mains, and the liquified mud was brushed off into the sewers. If water could be procured at a cheap rate, there can be no doubt that this would be the most effectual mode of gaining so desirable an object.

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## No. XIII.

## THOMPSON'S FIRE-ESCAPE.

January 17, 1844.

WILLIAM POLE, ESQ. F.R.S. V.P. IN THE CHAIR.

THIS contrivance consists of two ropes, each of sufficient length to reach from the street to the top windows of the loftiest houses. These ropes are joined together. An iron hook is secured to the ropes at the point of junction, and which is elevated to the window of the house from which the inmates are to be rescued, by means of a pole, consisting of several lengths put together, after the manner of a fishing-rod ; it is then to be secured, by means of the hook, to some heavy piece of furniture, the two other ends remaining in the street ; a belt to buckle round the body, having two small iron wheels, or sheaves, secured upon it by strong iron rivets, is so constructed that it may be moved upon the ropes from the street to the window, or *vice-versâ*, the ends of the rope being passed inside the sheaves, and pulled apart in the street, so as to form a considerable angle, and kept tight, and at such a distance as occasion may require ; thus persons may ascend and